

## Indiana's national treasures.

By Sally Campbell Grout

Indiana, like every state, has its own story to tell. Its own history; its own people; its own traditions. Still, like every state, Indiana is part of the fabric of America, with links to the rest of the country that remind us that we're all part of the bigger picture.

### **An Indiana resident who inspired the world.**

Say the name Abraham Lincoln, and many Americans instantly conjure up an image of a dignified man with a beard and a tall black hat. But for a time back in the early 1800s, Abraham Lincoln was a young boy growing up in southern Indiana after his family moved here from Kentucky. The story of his 14 years here is told and preserved in a couple of places in the appropriately named Lincoln City. Nestled within the woods of Lincoln State Park (812-937-4710), you'll find the Lincoln Amphitheatre (800-264-4ABE). Here, from June through August, the musical "Young Abe Lincoln" tells the story of his boyhood in Indiana. (Other works are performed at this venue, too.) At the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial (812-937-4541), you can visit the land where he lived and his mother's grave, and discover more about the boy who grew up to be president at the Memorial Visitor Center and the Living Historical Farm.

Lincoln's entire life is also honored and preserved in eastern Indiana, at The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne (260-455-3864). The collection here is extensive; in fact, it's the world's largest museum dedicated to the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. The award-winning exhibit "Abraham Lincoln and the American Experiment" includes 11 galleries, which feature hundreds of artifacts from Lincoln's era. The research library holds nearly 18,000 published volumes and thousands of manuscripts, including more than 300 original documents. With such a vast collection—and a variety of temporary exhibits--The Lincoln Museum is worthy of visiting over and over again.

You'll find another Lincoln connection in western Indiana. Henry S. Lane, the founder of the Indiana Republican Party, was instrumental in getting Lincoln nominated for the presidency. The Lane Place Antebellum Mansion in Crawfordsville (765-362-3416), his renovated home, is open for tours and provides an intimate look into Lane's life and the time period.

### **Plenty of grouse, one future president.**

Several years before William Henry Harrison was elected ninth president of the United States, he was Governor of the Indiana Territory. During that time, he built Grouseland (800-886-6443) in Vincennes, his home from

1803-1812. The home was named, appropriately, for the abundance of grouse. When you visit, you can see the Great House where the family lived and governmental business was carried out, along with tools needed for life on the frontier. The furniture and accessories are all from the time period; some of them are actually Harrison pieces. You'll also see campaign literature, buttons, and posters from Harrison's 1840 presidential campaign.

### **On the road again.**

Long before Americans began their love affair with automobiles, and long before the drive-thru, and long before anyone ever said, "getting there is half the fun," one of the nation's earliest roads was being built: the National Road, now known as U.S. 40. Constructed between 1828 and 1834, the National Road was the primary East/West highway before the Interstate Highway System. It still serves a vital function in many states, including Indiana. Travel the Historic National Road (as it's now known) through charming small towns (filled, incidentally, with some fabulous antique shops), rolling landscape, and even right through the heart of downtown Indianapolis. To plan your trip, call for Indiana's Historic National Road Driving Tour Guide (765-478-3172).

### **Honoring American heroes.**

People who have never attended the Indianapolis 500 may think it's all about the cars going really fast. But those who have been know that time is taken during the Memorial Day Weekend event to pay respect to America's veterans. In fact, every day of the year, Indianapolis honors those who have served with several memorials and monuments located downtown. Indiana War Memorials Parks and Monuments (317-232-7615) can direct you to these locations, which include the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Veterans' Memorial Plaza, the American Legion Mall, and the monument to the U.S.S. Indianapolis, among others. The city is also home to The Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial, which is located in White River State Park.

### **A war hero of a different sort.**

During World War II, a man from Indiana became known across the nation for his actions in the battlefield—not as a soldier, but as a journalist. Ernie Pyle was an invaluable link to the men in the fields and their loved ones at home, and was respected for his willingness to get into the foxholes to tell the real story of what the men were experiencing. He was shot by a Japanese soldier in 1945, but his life is respectfully remembered at the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site in Dana (765-665-3633). The home where he was born, along with two Quonset huts, display thousands of pieces of memorabilia, including the shovel he used to dig foxholes, a typewriter he used early in his career, and a jacket he wore

while covering the troops. A library of Pyle's columns is also located at the site.

### **A commitment to faith.**

One freedom guaranteed to all Americans: the right to worship as we please. One privilege we can all celebrate: the chance to learn more about other faiths and other ways of life, and to be better for the experience. For America's Amish, their faith and their way of life is completely intertwined. Throughout Indiana, you'll find several places where Amish people live, work, and worship, and places where they're willing to share their stories, experiences, and products. Menno-Hof in Shipshewana (260-768-4117) is a good place to start. Through multi-image presentations, historical environments, and colorful displays, Menno-Hof tells the story of the Mennonites and Amish, including the 17<sup>th</sup> century journey that brought them to America. Shipshewana is located in northern Indiana's Amish Country (800-860-5949), home of one of the nation's largest Amish settlements.

In Nappanee, also in northern Indiana, you'll find Amish Acres (800-800-4942). At this Old Order Amish farmstead listed on the National Register of Historic Places, you can tour the house and farm; see how maple syrup, apple butter and dried foods are made; and watch demonstrations of traditional Amish crafts such as lye soap making, broom making, and, of course, quilt making. The "Threshers Dinner" in the Restaurant Barn serves hearty, home-cooked Amish favorites. Amish Acres is also the national home to "Plain and Fancy," the Joseph Stein musical that opened on Broadway in 1955.

In the south central part of the state, Daviess County (800-449-5262), to be exact, you're welcome to get to know more of Indiana's Amish population. For an informative overview of the area, Dillon Amish Tours (812-486-3491) offers you the chance to see Amish life here. You'll see the beautiful countryside, along with plenty of Amish-made goods. Of course, anyone even vaguely familiar with the Amish community has seen and admired Amish quilts. Labor Day weekend provides the perfect opportunity to own one. At the annual Daviess County Amish Quilt Auction, you can bid on a beautiful quilt and shop for other "must haves," such as homemade pies, cakes, noodles, and breads. Many extraordinary crafts and crafted furniture items will also be on display. The auction benefits area Amish schools.

### **Now that's old.**

In southern Indiana, there's a place where you can learn not just about the state--but also about the earth. Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville (812-280-9970) is home to fossil beds that date back 386 million years to the Devonian Period. What's even more incredible is that these beds are

among the largest exposed Devonian fossil beds in the world. What else was going on during the Devonian period? Well, at that time, the land that's now Indiana and Kentucky was located south of the equator under a tropical sea. What else is going on at Falls of the Ohio State Park? Hiking, picnicking, bird watching, fishing, educational programs, and other outdoor fun.

**Want to know more?**

To learn more about national treasures right here in Indiana, or for experiences that are definitively "Hoosier," visit [enjoyindiana.com](http://enjoyindiana.com).